

Message Text

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ORIGIN HUD-01

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 OES-03 EPA-01 FEA-01 AID-05

CEQ-01 CIAE-00 OFA-01 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-07 INR-07

IO-10 L-03 NSF-01 NSC-05 NSAE-00 PM-04 USIA-06 SS-15

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APPROVED BY EUR/SOV: SPOLANSKY

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EPA/EXSEC: WBROWN

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P 152246Z AUG 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

PFOR, TECH, UR

TAGS: PFOR, TECH, UR

SUBJECT: US-USSR HOUSING AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGREE-
MENTS: PROPOSAL FOR MOSCOW BASED HUD OFFICER FOR UPCOMING
HUD-LED TEAM VISITS

SUMMARY: DURING PERIOD SEPTEMBER 5 THROUGH OCTOBER 26 THREE
HUD-LED US TEAM EXCHANGES ARE SCHEDULED TO TAKE PLACE UNDER
SUBJECT AGREEMENTS. HUD PROPOSES HAVING ITS SOVIET PROGRAM
ASSISTANT ON A HOLDING PATTERN IN MOSCOW TO PROVIDE ESCORT
AND SECRETARIAT SERVICES FOR THESE TEAMS AND THE POST. DE-
PARTMENT RECOMMENDS FAVORABLE CONSIDERATION AND REQUESTS
EMBASSY'S AND SOVIET'S REACTION TO PROPOSAL ASAP. END
SUMMARY.

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1. ACCORDING TO RECENT EXCHANGES OF COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN US AND SOVIET SIDES THE FOLLOWING SCHEDULE HAS BEEN DEVELOPED: (A) SEPTEMBER 5-21 THE VISIT OF A HUD-LED TEAM ON ENHANCEMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT IN THE FAR NORTH HAS BEEN CONFIRMED BY THE SOVIETS; (B) THE FIRST MEETING OF THE NEW TOWNS WORKING GROUP UNDER THE HOC AGREEMENT HAS BEEN APPROVED BY THE SOVIETS (IN RECENT TELEPHONE AND LETTER COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN HUD AND GOSSTROY) TO TAKE PLACE DURING LAST TWO WEEKS OF SEPTEMBER (US PREFERENCE FOR SEPTEMBER 21-OCT 1 TIME FRAME IS SUBJECT OF SEPTTEL); (C) THE JOINT

WORKING GROUP ON THE URBAN ENVIRONMENT UNDER THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGREEMENT IS CURRENTLY SCHEDULED FOR MOSCOW MEETING OCTOBER 10-26. HUD HAD PLANNED TO INCLUDE A DIFFERENT ESCORT OFFICER FROM ITS OFFICE OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS WITH EACH OF THESE TEAMS FOR PURPOSES OF ESCORT-SECRETARIAT SUPPORT AND GENERAL FAMILIARIZATION. HOWEVER, IN ORDER TO CONSERVE TRAVEL FUNDS IN VIEW OF RELATIVELY CLOSE TIMING OF THESE VISITS, HUD PROPOSES TO HAVE DOUGLAS R. FREEMAN, (SOVIET) PROGRAM ASSISTANT IN ITS OFFICE OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS, REMAIN IN MOSCOW DURING THE 10-DAY BREAK BETWEEN THE CONCLUSION OF THE NEW TOWNS VISIT AND THE BEGINNING OF THE URBAN ENVIRONMENT WORKING GROUP MEETING. FREEMAN WOULD BE AVAILABLE TO ASSIST SCICOUN IN BACKSTOPPING LATTER VISIT AND IN PROVIDING OTHER SUPPORT. IN ADDITION TO HIS SUBSTANTIVE COMPETENCE, FREEMAN IS A SKILLED TYPIST. HE WOULD ALSO BE ABLE TO ESTABLISH CLOSE CONTACT WITH GOSSTROY OFFICIALS FOR THE PURPOSE OF PREPARING A REPORT FOR HUD ON THAT STATE COMMITTEE. EXPOSURE TO EMBASSY AND MOSCOW MILIEU WOULD IMPROVE HIS CAPABILITY TO SUPPORT HUD'S INVOLVEMENT IN BILATERAL RELATIONS WITH SOVIETS. IN ADDITION, SUCH TEMPORARY DUTY WOULD PROVIDE FREEMAN EXCELLENT OPPORTUNITY TO ENHANCE HIS RUSSIAN LANGUAGE SKILLS.

3. HUD WOULD PLAN TO COVER ALL COSTS RELATED TO FREEMAN'S HOLDING PATTERN ASSIGNMENT IN MOSCOW EXCEPT FOR THE TIME HE IS MEMBER OF NEW TOWNS WHEN SOVIETS WOULD BE EXPECTED TO PICK UP HIS COSTS ALONG WITH THOSE OF OTHER MEMBERS OF THAT TEAM WHICH WILL VISIT ON RECEIVING SIDE PAYS BASIS. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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HUD WOULD ALSO PICK UP HIS COSTS IN CONNECTION WITH HIS TRAVEL IN USSR AS MEMBER OF OTHER TWO TEAMS WHICH ARE COMING TO MOSCOW ON SENDING SIDE PAYS BASIS. NO SPECIAL EMBASSY ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT WOULD BE REQUIRED OTHER THAN USUAL FACILITIES AFFORDED MEMBERS OF VISITING US TEAMS. FREEMAN WOULD PLAN STAY IN HOTEL (PROBABLY UKRAINA BECAUSE OF EASY WALKING DISTANCE), AND WOULD REQUIRE MINIMUM SPACE AT EMBASSY FOR PURPOSES OF ANY SENSITIVE REPORT

WRITING. HE HAS SECRET CLEARANCE.

4. FREEMAN IS HIGHLY RECOMMENDED BY HIS HUD SUPERVISORS AND IS ALSO FAVORABLY KNOWN TO DEPARTMENT AND EPA OFFICERS CONCERNED WITH US-USSR EXCHANGES. HE HAS MET SEVERAL SOVIET OFFICIALS WHO HAVE VISITED US UNDER TWO SUBJECT AGREEMENTS.

5. SOVIET EMBASSY HAS NOT BEEN CONSULTED PRIOR TO RECEIVING POST'S REACTION TO PROPOSAL. HE WILL

BE TRAVELING ON OFFICIAL PASSPORT AND IS NOT REPEAT NOT TO BE CONSIDERED PART OF EMBASSY COMPLEMENT.

6. ACTION REQUESTED: AT EMBASSY'S DISCRETION SUGGEST SCICOUN EXPLORE ABOVE PROPOSAL WITH APPROPRIATE SOVIET OFFICIALS AND REPORT REACTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS SOONEST IN VIEW OF IMMINENT APPLICATION FOR SOVIET VISAS FOR NORTH REGION TEAM WHICH INCLUDES FREEMAN. SISCO

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